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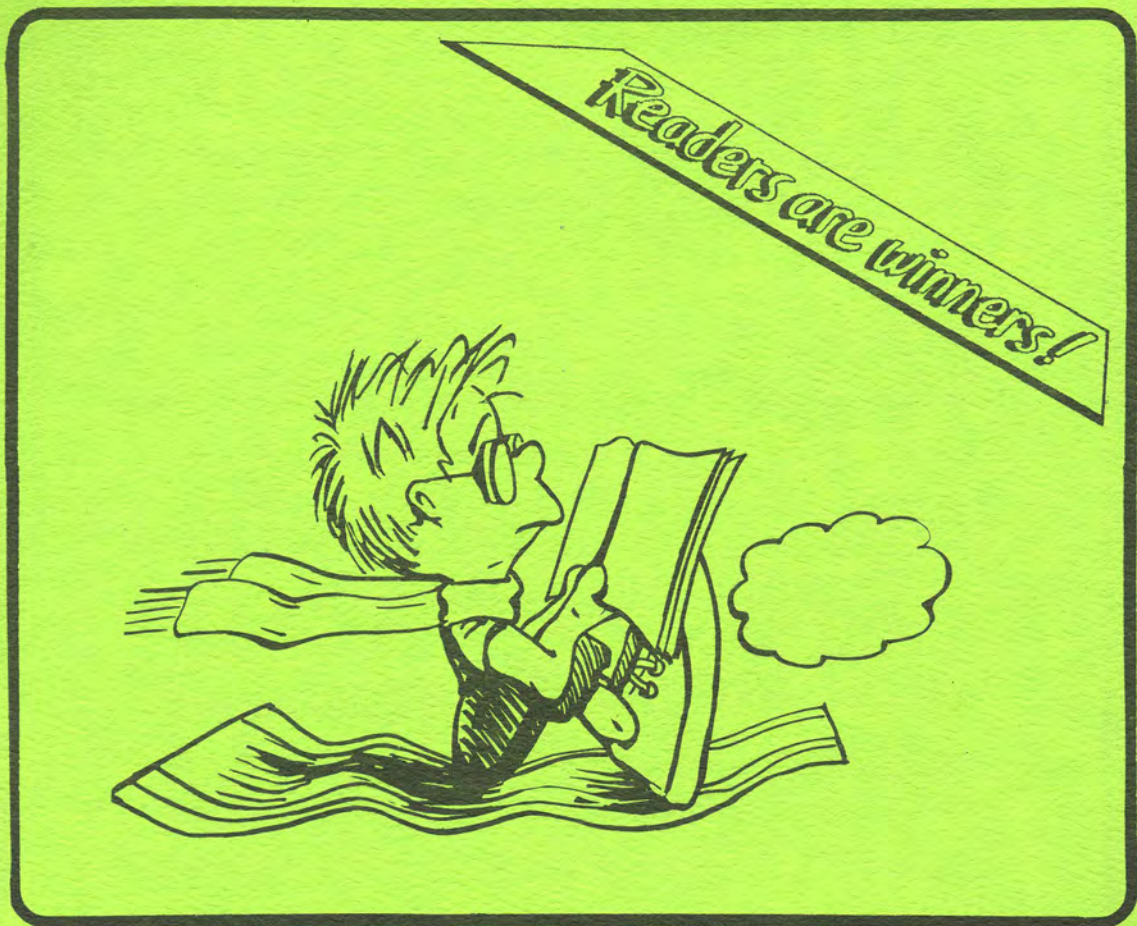
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Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin



SEPTEMBER

1983

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

150 EMPIRE STREET

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

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Editorial Notice:

The Bulletin is published monthly except in August. News and articles should be submitted to the editor by the 1st. day of each month for publication by the end of that month.

The Bulletin is a publication for public, school, academic and special libraries of Rhode Island. Published by the Rhode Island Library Association, the Bulletin welcomes news and discussion of interest to RILA members. Articles contained herein, however, do not necessarily reflect the ideas of the RILA membership, or the Bulletin staff or advertisers. All articles about library and media matters will be considered. All should be signed and should not exceed ten double spaced typed pages unless the editor is consulted. Cover art should be done in black and white and should measure 7½ inches wide by 6 inches high.

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Cover: "Readers are Winners" banner designed by
Randy Harelson.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



As I'm sure you're all aware, the RILA Publications Committee has undergone substantial changes recently. What has evolved is a re-organization of the Committee and the addition of some new individuals to the Bulletin staff. The most significant change has been the creation of a new post -- Managing Editor -- to which I have been appointed. Let me first say that I am honored to have been selected for this important task and I am pleased that the Executive Board has enough confidence in me to entrust me with the future of the Bulletin. I will do my best to live up to their expectations.

This issue of the Bulletin has been a learning experience for those of us who are new to our positions. In the course of the next few months, I think you will see the Bulletin evolve to reflect the changes in the organization of the Publications Committee and the unique personalities of the Bulletin staff. It is my desire that the Bulletin reflect the thoughts and activities of the Association and all of its members. I hope, therefore, that an open line of communication will develop between the RILA membership and the Bulletin staff.

A change in the publication schedule of the Bulletin has taken place with this issue, effecting a realignment of the date of the issue and the date the issue is actually published. You may now look forward to receiving your Bulletin at the beginning of the month, rather than at the end. To accomplish this, it was necessary to skip one issue -- the July/August, 1983 (Vol. 55, no. 11) issue was not published.

Contrary to rumors that have been circulating, and to comments that have appeared in this column in recent issues, the Publications Committee has not been disbanded. Several of its members will continue to do the excellent jobs they have been doing. The Committee is also fortunate to have had other well-qualified, eager individuals come forward ready to work.

Let me take the time now to introduce both the new and continuing members of the Bulletin staff:

Michael Vocino, Government Publications Librarian at the URI Library, will be the new Feature Editor for the Bulletin. Both Michael and his position are new to the Bulletin; he will be responsible for marshaling and editing the feature articles appearing in each issue. I am happy to welcome Michael as a member of the staff -- I'm confident he will bring us articles of the highest caliber. Elsewhere in this issue you will find comment from him concerning his plans for our literary entertainment and such specifics as how, where, and when articles should be submitted.

Our news will continue to be collected and edited by Sondra Giles. Sandy has done a great job, as News Editor, of keeping us informed, and I'm happy she is willing to continue with this important effort.

The Bulletin's new Production Editor is Elizabeth Rogers, head of the Cataloging Department at the Providence Public Library. Elizabeth brings to this position good organizational ability, common sense and a willingness to work hard. She is a welcome addition to the staff and I'm confident she'll handle the job with ease.

Martha Habesian, our Advertising Manager, has done a terrific job of soliciting ads for the Bulletin - earning more in advertising for the Bulletin during this past fiscal year than in any other recent year. Martha is anxious to continue this effort and I'm confident revenue will increase under her direction.

The Calendar will still be compiled by Beverly Mason at the Department of State Library Services. Beverly has done a good job of keeping us informed of upcoming activities and we can look forward to seeing her notices in future issues of the Bulletin.

Together, all of us on the Publications Committee will strive to bring Association news, feature articles, announcements and other news items to the members of RILA, via its Bulletin, in an interesting and timely fashion. Please remember, this is your Bulletin. Every member of the Committee will welcome your comments, suggestions and input. Let us hear from you.

Chris LaFauci
Editor

Letters to the Editor



To the Editor:

I should like to thank Editor-in-Chief Debbie Barchi, Production Editor Sharon Charette, and the members of the Publications Committee for their work on the Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin.

Debbie has indicated her great pride in editing the Bulletin. My great pleasure has been in the reading of it.

My thanks to one and all.

Sincerely,

Dan Bergen
Professor



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



With this issue the RILA Bulletin is under new management and a new management structure. Not only do we welcome a new editor this month, but that editor has a new job. Chris LaFauci has produced herewith a first Bulletin issue that carries a promise of many a satisfying Bulletin in RILA's future.

Chris may be better known among RILA members at special libraries than among those at academic and public libraries, but she comes to the editorship of the Bulletin from a background that encompasses a broad spectrum of librarianship. As librarian of the Rhode Island Department of Health, she was in charge of a special library with a public mission. As President of ARIHSL, she worked with academic and special librarians to, among other accomplishments, produce the current edition of the ARIHSL union list of medical journals. Chris also has been an active member of RILA's government relations committee, where she was offered a picture of the full range of Rhode Island library issues. Currently, Chris is employed as Director of the Health Sciences Information Center at Women and Infants Hospital in Providence. All of us who have worked with her have recognized and appreciated Chris' grasp of the issues in our profession, her relentless enthusiasm, and her knack for getting a job done well.

Chris' job at the Bulletin is a new one because the financial difficulties the Bulletin experienced in the last fiscal year required that the executive board take a fresh look at the structure of the publications committee. The conclusions that the Board reached can be summed up in the statement that no one was in charge. There was a literary editor who looked after the feature articles, a news editor who put the news pages together, and a production editor who did the layout and looked to the technical details of typing, printing, etc. Members of the staff worked in relative isolation. Even with all three editors doing a wonderful job, however, no one was looking at the whole picture. The forest had become invisible behind the proverbial trees. That is why Chris LaFauci has been named managing editor of the RILA Bulletin. Her responsibilities will be to plan each issue, watch the budget, seek out the most efficient methods and procedures, ride herd on deadlines, and keep the committee (aka the Bulletin staff) in touch with each other. She will be assisted by the same three editorships that previously constituted the management of the Bulletin. Two of those positions are filled anew with this issue. As the masthead reveals, the third editor, and the remainder of the publications committee will continue at their same desks keeping the presses rolling.

Communication is the essence of a professional organization. The news of the profession and of its practitioners is a major benefit of membership, and a benefit that helps members function better in their professional lives. The Bulletin is one of RILA's most important endeavors. I am pleased to be introducing a new managing editor and a new publications committee structure that will enable RILA to continue communicating through our Bulletin.

-- Howard Boksenbaum, president



New Responsibilities, New Beginnings
by Michael Vocino, Features Editor



Feature Editor. That is the new responsibility I have taken on as a member of the Rhode Island Library Association Publications Committee. I take it on with not a little trepidation knowing the fine reputation for quality of the previous editor, Debbie Barchi.

Before my appointment to the University of Rhode Island Library faculty, I had spent a number of years in Massachusetts libraries. During that tenure, I became acquainted with Janet Husband, who edits a similar newsletter for the Massachusetts Library Association. When I told her about the new opportunity I agreed to undertake, she expressed a certain degree of disbelief that the RILA Bulletin was the work of a small, state association. She was even more astonished to learn that the entire publication -- from start to finish -- was accomplished by a small group of volunteers. The simple fact is, however, that the Bulletin has such a good reputation precisely because of volunteer dedication.

In my tenure as the new feature editor, I hope to continue to bring to the RILA membership articles of interest. I hope those articles will continue to be practical, timely, and intellectually challenging. Moreover, I want each issue to hold something of interest for the various library practitioners: school, public, special, research and academic librarians. This, of course, would be impossible to accomplish unless you, the readership, continue to submit articles for consideration. In this area, I need your help. Please consider this an open invitation to submit manuscripts for consideration.

What kind of articles? Anything dealing with the multi-faceted world we call "the library." Articles from those outside the profession who would offer us another perspective are also welcome. In short, I am open and willing to consider any article which you think others would find useful and challenging. Each of us in the profession has something to convey to the library community-at-large. Well, to do just that, this is the forum.

In submitting articles, please try to follow these guidelines: type-written, double spaced, one inch margins and if you wish the manuscript back, please enclose a SASE. Two copies are needed. Photocopy submissions are acceptable. The length should be limited to 10-12 pages including citations.

Anyone interested in submitting a manuscript can reach me at 792-4611. Those wishing to write and submit their manuscripts may do so to the following address:

Michael Vocino
Government Publications Librarian
University of Rhode Island Library
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

Chris LaFauci, the new Managing Editor, and the publications committee have already met several times to plan a new strategy for the Bulletin. Chris has some creative and innovative ideas for future issues in terms of format and content. It should be an exciting time to be part of the "new" Bulletin.



The Budgetary Process for Librarians: the basics by Karen E. Murphy, Ph.D.

Public management skills today tend to seem more important in our contemporary environment than those involving fiscal management and budgeting. We have seen the impact of Proposition 13 in California and Proposition 2½ in Massachusetts upon municipal services, and one can no longer ignore the reality that dollars will not be forthcoming as freely as they once were. All managers within the public sector must become cognizant of this reality and, as a result, move toward a posture of greater budgetary skills and improved understanding of fiscal matters.

Over the past six months the Wall Street Journal has reported how the chief executive officers of organizations are increasingly drawn from fiscal management departments as opposed to the sales or production realms. Obviously, our economic environment has affected the private as well as public organization. How do librarians begin to address this problem of budgeting and financial management when many were traditionally not trained in these areas? The librarian who finds him or herself suddenly within an administrative position must confront the issue and begin to develop expertise in this area, otherwise he or she will find that the library will be allocated an increasingly smaller portion of the budgetary pie. I shall delineate the four major areas within the budgetary process and indicate some practical techniques in each area.

The budgetary process is basically comprised of four major areas: planning, calculating the amount to be requested, developing a strategy to secure the desired allocation and implementing the final budget. It should be noted in the public sector (in contrast to the private sector) that this process is not necessarily as neatly defined as one might desire. In all four phases of budgeting, politics intervenes once we are dealing with public dollars and competition among organizations to secure increasing allocations. To be a good administrator one should not ignore this reality, and should remember that we are not necessarily talking about partisan politics per se but bureaucratic politics in terms of competition among organizations.

Planning

A fundamental proposition to remember is that the budget is a planning document and not merely a tool for allocating dollars. This distinction is significant since budgets are usually perceived as being a document in which "x" dollars are allocated to a specific function and one should only allocate that particular amount. The real function of a budget is to enable the administrator to make and to formulate a plan of operation for the particular fiscal year. The plan must precede the assignment of a dollar amount to particular areas. Unfortunately, in many organizations this aspect is ignored and an administrator merely reviews the previous year's budget and adds a percentage to the amounts requested in the previous year.

Since a budget is a planning document, an administrator must be clear regarding the mission of the organization, its goals, and its priorities. From these components will flow such areas as staffing patterns and capital needs. For example, in the case of a small library, if the circulation figures indicate that children's books or mysteries have the highest level of circulation, does the administrator want to allocate 75% of the money for acquisitions to purchasing non-fiction books? One needs to draw upon data generated by the organization in the execution of its responsibilities during the previous year. Planning should be an on-going activity so that the librarian will be acquiring information throughout the year pertaining to unmet needs and highly-valued services which the library is providing its clientele. This information is of great import as it provides the framework for the raw data as one begins to delineate a plan.

Since we live in a constantly changing environment, the librarian who is in a managerial role must be cognizant of changes which are occurring in the environment and in particular new or obsolete services which are provided by the library. For example, if a library's clientele has diminished, one needs to take a careful look at reasons for the declining clientele. Can this diminution be solely attributed to other activities such as television watching or might the acquisitions, hours of operation, or obsolete services be contributing to a lower number of clients? If one has this information available, this will significantly increase the quality of the budget document. For instance, one might demonstrate the importance of a new service which particularly addresses an unmet need. The data also contributes to a sound justification for ongoing programs and services which continue to be valued by the community.

Again in planning one must be aware of the community which the library serves. Obviously, one that serves a community comprised largely of senior citizens would offer different services than those serving a community populated by young families. The administrator of a library must be responsive to community needs and formulate a plan which addresses those needs. In sum, planning is a component of the budgetary process which deserves more attention than it is frequently allocated. Organizations which do plan effectively tend to be those which survive in the competition for scarce dollars since they are responsive to citizens needs and do not stagnate in providing outmoded services. After designing a plan the librarian who is managing this process must then calculate the dollar amount which will be attached to the various line items -- assuming that many libraries are still locked into a line item type of budgeting. Based upon one's plan, one would have information pertaining to staffing patterns, hours of operation, etc.

Calculation

Relying upon a comprehensive plan, the library administrator can then begin to move into the second phase of the budgetary process which is calculation. How does one determine the level of funding for the operation of a library during the coming fiscal year? Merely recapitulating the previous year's budget with a percentage factor added on is what is typically known as an incremental budget in which neither change nor any significant innovation occurs. Due to our rapidly changing environment it behooves library administrators to factor in changes in order to be more responsive to the library's consumers and the community-at-large.

For example, with the recent interest in computer literacy, might not the library wish to purchase a personal computer along with programmed learning texts or cassettes for those desiring to acquire some computer literacy to have an opportunity to develop those skills? There is also the possibility of acquiring video disks for those patrons who wish to see -- as well as hear -- music at home as opposed to a conventional record library. These are only hypothetical examples but I believe they reflect the changing tenor of many communities and of patrons' lifestyles.

Another method of calculating the amount of the budget is to utilize a so-called "fair share" approach. This procedure is also not particularly innovative and merely reflects the status quo percentage increase given to other municipal or state organizations. For example, the library administrator may wish to survey the budget increase given to libraries of comparable size in similar socioeconomic communities. If the general trend seemed to be a 10% increase then the librarian would merely factor in that amount. Another approach would be to look specifically at one's community and determine the percentage increases in various departments of that community. For example, an administrator might review the recreation, police, fire, and school departments, and determine the average percent increase and use that as a yardstick for the request.

However, the most effective method of calculation is to base one's assessment upon a plan which has been formulated and which truly reflects the requirements for the library's operation. If the library has been underfunded for a number of years, the budget request indeed may be a 15 or 18% increase or if there has been a substantial influx or a substantial increase in the population this may dictate a larger request. If one has a very detailed plan formulated, the calculation phase should be relatively simple as one is merely attaching a dollar amount to various functions and activities provided by the library. The administrator of the library should strive to make the budget as accurate as possible, however. Town and city councils tend to assume a padding factor is included in the budget and may arbitrarily cut all budgets by perhaps 10%. Unfortunately, this places the administrator in a position of having to pad an accurate budget in order to prevent severe erosion of the budget request and again fall below the desired level of funding for adequate library operation. This situation is a common reality, and I would suggest the library administrator be cognizant of this process and guard against being a victim of this arbitrary procedure.

Strategies for Securing Budget Requests

The third and perhaps most critical phase of the budgetary process is the selection of strategies which are designed to enable the administrator to secure a favorable decision in seeking the library's financial allocation. From my experience, I have witnessed frequently a situation in which a well-conceptualized budget has been scuttled during this phase or diluted to the extent that the funding allows only a minimal level of service delivery. Obviously, if all the meat has been cut from the library's budget and only a skeletal portion remains, the library is placed in a position of merely limping along for another year. This contributes to a weakened image and lower prestige within the community which in turn perpetuates even lower funding during subsequent years. The library's administrator finds him/herself caught in a vicious cycle.

The library administrator must also be aware of bureaucratic politics and understand that all organizations are seeking to maximize their agency allocation due to the administrative precept "more is better." Therefore, the administrator is in competition with other public organizations and if he or she is unaware of this reality, it will result in the library's being underfunded. Unfortunately, merit alone does not guarantee approval of a budget request. There are several important steps within this phase but perhaps one of the more significant is the budget hearing. In presenting the library's budget the administrator should be very well-prepared (in fact, perhaps overprepared) in order to field any possible question that might arise from a town or city councilperson or, just as importantly in the case of public financial hearings, from a citizen.

Due to the time constraints of politicians, they do not have the time to examine budgets in great detail and must rely on a simplistic "rule of thumb" approach to determine the level of funding among municipal organizations. Since they are not trained in library management, they probably would not raise terribly sophisticated questions. However, the simple questions they raise could cause problems for the librarian who is not well-prepared. They may ask for example, how many books were circulated during the previous year? What percentage of the population utilizes the library? How many children's books were circulated? What were the most popular books? If there are a number of branches within the library system, which branches seem to have greater levels of service? What is the library doing to increase the literacy of our young people, etc., etc.? Are there programs for senior citizens? What neighborhoods do bookmobiles frequent? These questions are easily answered if one is prepared. However, if the administrator is unable to provide this information, there is an immediate and significant credibility problem which arises. Since these politicians do not have much time to spend with each administrator, these slips by the librarian could cost the library dearly. Once this credibility problem has surfaced, it is very, very difficult to overcome. Based upon a brief exchange, there is the feeling among decision makers that the library's administrator does not really know what is going on in the agency and as a result the budget might be cut even more than anticipated. In many cases the credibility problems can never be assuaged and each year during the budgetary hearings politicians remember the incompetent library administrator.

There are several steps which can be taken to mitigate the possibility of this scenario occurring. Obviously, one must draw upon a comprehensive, detailed budget plan. The plan should provide the decision makers with specific information pertaining to the requests and their justification.

Secondly, the library administrator should rehearse budgetary hearings, utilizing library staff to pose questions and act as surrogate politicians or irate citizens. This is a critical step which cannot be overemphasized.



Thirdly, one should use visual presentations in going before any body of decision makers. Again, due to the time constraint, there is not time to have a twenty-five minute monologue on the library, its problems, and its assets. Charts can be used most effectively during the budget presentation to illustrate levels of readership, increasing demands for particular services, etc. They can be very simple in their design but are most effective in convincing individuals. One only has to observe the frequency and effectiveness of President Reagan's use of such charts.

Fourthly, one should keep the presentation simple. Do not use library jargon or sophisticated terminology. This will merely alienate the town or city councilperson who may not understand your presentation and, therefore, will not raise critical questions which can be opportunities for you to highlight or showcase the positive contribution of the library. When responding to a question, merely address that question and do not get caught up in tangential issues or rhetoric.

In addition, one should be cognizant of image and present the budget in a professional manner, conveying the sense that you are a person "in charge of the situation." You are trustworthy, competent, and are a tireless worker in the cause of improving library services. This is the kind of image politicians want to see and want to believe public servants fit: tireless, underpaid, and totally committed to the work of the library.

Another critical step in this phase is garnering support from powerful citizens in the community, patrons of the library, and other constituent groups which can speak effectively for the library's needs. An example of constituent support might be a group such as Friends of the Library. These individuals would write or telephone the decision makers regarding the importance of the library and make it clear to the politicians that library support is a critical issue for them. This can be a very effective tool particularly if the library administrator has decided to come in with a significant increase in the overall budgetary requests.

During the year it is also most helpful, particularly if it were near the budget period, to receive media coverage, particularly newspaper coverage, which highlights contributions of the library. If the library administrator resides in a town which has an open financial meeting, it is imperative that the Friends of the Library and patrons be present at those meetings to offer "testimony" to the value of the library. This strategy can work to turn a negative perception of the library to a positive one. The council is aware that these citizens are voters. The library administrator should cultivate a support group and utilize it effectively.

Another strategy which can be utilized effectively is the crisis incident. Although on the surface this incident may appear to be a calamity, the astute librarian can turn this into a fortuitous event.

For example, on a cold evening a pipe bursts in the library flooding books in a particular section of the library. Instead of merely requesting repair of this particular section of the library and replacement of books, the proactive librarian will seek to capitalize upon this incident. In the budget request, one should state that capital improvements for this library had been requested repeatedly and ignored and this incident merely substantiates the imperative nature of this request which has been ignored too long. An effective librarian should then be able to turn this calamity into an opportunity for major capital renovation of the library or perhaps a referendum for construction of a new library or other elaborate designs. All too often administrators take the conservative road and seek only to repair the damage instead of seeing the many vistas of possibilities. This crisis incident can be a more opportune moment for the library administrator if properly orchestrated.

Implementation

The fourth phase of the budgetary process is implementation. This would include providing alternative plans if the budgetary request is reduced. The administrator should always be prepared for this possibility and although one never seeks a reduction one should have a contingency plan available. For example, if the request were reduced by "x" amount, how would one continue the library's operation? Would there be reductions in staffing, increased use of volunteers, shorter hours of operation, or reduction in acquisition? These are the kinds of issues which confront the library administrator and one must be aware of the tradeoff and the consequences of the various alternatives. As stated earlier these contingency plans should be formulated prior to the budget hearing in order to avoid crisis planning in which rash, unproductive decisions are made which could further damage the reputation and effectiveness of the library.

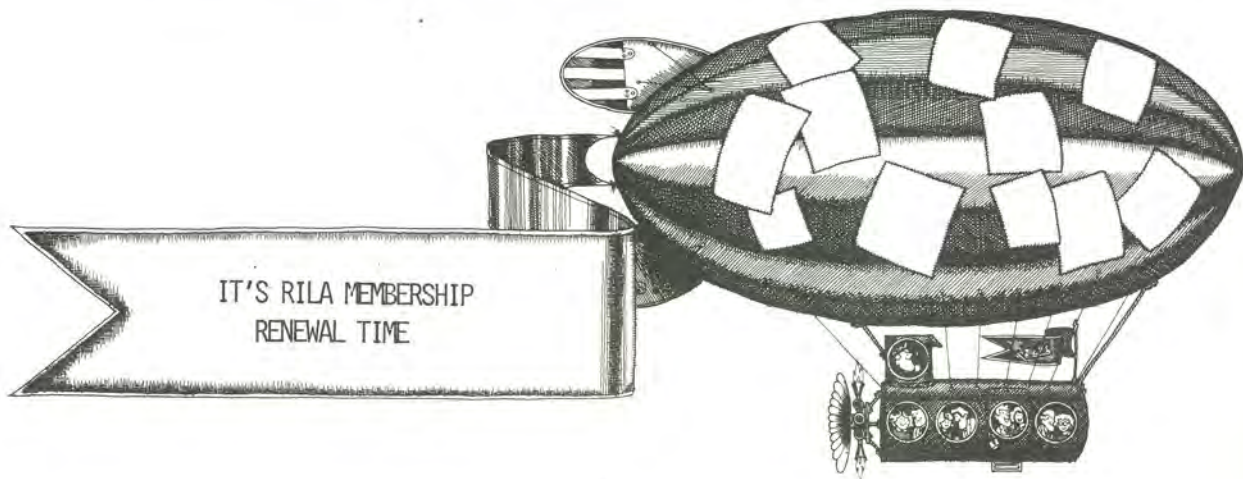
A second area within implementation is the monitoring of expenditures. Once the allocation has been approved by the decision making body, the library administrator should be constantly aware of the level of expenditures -- whether they are on schedule or whether fiscal resources are being consumed at a rate greater than anticipated. Although many individuals have an aversion to computer printouts, it would behoove the administrator to keep very close control of expenditures particularly during this era of resource scarcity in the public sector. For example, in the area of acquisitions, with the cost of books escalating so rapidly, the administrator through monitoring acquisitions may realize that due to cost increases he or she will have to reduce the number of acquisitions by "x" percent due to the higher than anticipated cost. If this procedure is followed on a regular basis, the librarian can avoid cost overruns and the necessity of attempting to gain supplementary appropriations. Otherwise he/she will be forced to reduce staff, close branches, or find other solutions to the shortfall problem. Administrators who constantly come before decision making bodies with a shortfall will not be received favorably and obviously their credibility as managers certainly will be questioned.

The library administrator always should be aware of the fiscal situation of the library. In the case of a small library perhaps the administrator will have to assume this burden. In the case of larger library systems one would assume there would be accountants or other fiscal personnel who could monitor this phase and inform the library administrator on a regular basis of the expenditures or any unanticipated events pertaining to the fiscal operation. Unlike the federal government, state and local governments cannot engage in deficit spending and although a library administrator may receive a supplemental appropriation, that appropriation may in fact be deleted in the subsequent fiscal year as penalty or admonishment for what politicians consider reckless spending.

Conclusion

Preparing a budget request is a fairly straightforward procedure, providing one has a schema to guide one. The four phases delineated in this article provide a guide for the library administrator to formulate a budget request. Obviously, there are variations but the essentials have been described which will enable the administrator to improve his or her chances of success in the budgetary process and also analyze mistakes which may have been made in the past. Skills in preparing budgetary requests are needed especially during this era of resource scarcity in the public sector and fiscal management during the implementation phase is imperative in order to "balance the budget." The librarian more and more is required to develop skills traditionally ignored in such areas as fiscal management, budget preparation, and personnel matters. If the library administrator fails to develop skills in these areas, the library's operation will have a critical shortage of funds and will slowly sink to a level where only minimal services are provided. Each year a piece of the operation will be deleted until there is barely anything resembling a library remaining.

Professor Karen E. Murphy is a member of the University of R.I. Department of Political Science and specializes in Public Administration.





THE LONGEST SINGLE CONTINUOUS THREAD:

RIHS Library to Administer Newspaper Project
by Paul R. Campbell and Christian A. King



The Rhode Island Historical Society recently announced the receipt of a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as part of the United States Newspaper Project. Since its organization in 1822, the Historical Society has been the primary collector of the state's newspapers, and in 1874, it was formally designated by the state as the official repository for Rhode Island newspapers. Its collection, in the Library at 121 Hope Street in Providence, contains over 570 titles, from the first Rhode Island newspaper of 1732 to the present time, representing the most complete file anywhere of the state's newspapers. Annually, the Society receives a grant through the Rhode Island State Library to collect and microfilm all newspapers published in the state, thus preserving a very special part of Rhode Island history.

CHRONOLOGY

In 1962, the Society's Library embarked on a program to microfilm its retrospective files. (Almost 375 titles are now on 11,000 microfilm reels.) By 1970, insufficient funds forced the Society to narrow its filming to current titles only. Then in 1973, Nancy Chudacoff, Society reference librarian at the time, prepared Providence Newspapers on Microfilm, 1972 to Present: A Bibliography and Subject Guide. The bibliography and guide was done as an independent study for graduate library school. Preparation of Providence Newspapers on Microfilm included a list of the Society's holdings for Providence. In 1974, graduate assistants from the History Department at URI, and work study students funded in part by the Society, began conducting an inventory of the Library's newspapers, both on film and unfiled. Major work on the inventory had been done when the project was suspended due to lack of funds. Later that year, Providence Newspapers on Microfilm came to the attention of Gale E. Peterson who, at the time, was conducting a feasibility study for what evolved into the United States Newspaper Project (USNP). The Society consulted with Peterson in order to create a proposal for a comprehensive bibliography of newspapers in this state in a form compatible with USNP; the proposal was submitted to NEH. Decision on funding for this grant was deferred, pending completion of guidelines for NEH's newspapers program and the Library of Congress' newspaper cataloging manual. (This manual, completed in 1981, is to serve as the authority for creating bibliographic entries for newspapers.) A new proposal, requesting funding to develop a total plan to inventory, catalog, and preserve Rhode Island newspapers was sent in last December by Society Librarian Paul R. Campbell. It was this proposal which was awarded NEH monies in May.

THE PROJECT

The award of the planning grant will result in the creation of a ten-member Steering Committee composed of librarians, historians, journalists and genealogists. Campbell will serve as project director on the Rhode Island Newspaper Project, and will act as the consultant's advisor and liaison with governmental agencies, and public and special libraries. The consultant will develop a statewide plan to survey and record bibliographical data relating to

Rhode Island newspapers; to convert this data to machine-readable form; to produce a comprehensive printed union list of the state's newspapers; and, with state support, develop a preservation microfilming program to the host agency. Additionally, the consultant will survey the Society's newspaper collection, evaluate the recently-completed union list of newspapers held by public libraries in Rhode Island, and sample collections of in-state colleges, universities and special libraries, as well as obtain a representative sample of the size and importance of Rhode Island newspaper collections existing in other states. The final report will be completed with-in five months, once the project commences, and will serve as the blueprint for later phases of the statewide project.

The Rhode Island Newspaper Project, along with similar projects in 26 other states and one U.S. territory which were also awarded grants from NEH, will result in the creation of a national data bank on American newspapers. Eventually, through NEH support, researchers will have access to the data bank through OCLC. OCLC will act as the computer network, making available to newspaper bibliographies, 5000 terminals in 3000 libraries, archives and historical societies throughout North America. The national data base for serial publications CONSER (Conversion of Serials) will serve as the online record system for newspaper bibliographic information. NEH grants awarded to seven national repositories will allow the records from these centers to be fed into the CONSER data base via OCLC. These repositories -- American Antiquarian Society, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago, Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, the Council on Library Resources, the Kansas State Historical Society and the New York Historical Society -- will test the automated network record system and the various national standards and guides being developed for the newspaper program. Officials from the Library of Congress (which will serve as the eighth repository) will also join this cooperative endeavor.

HISTORY

Rhode Island is one of the few states to have complete documentation of its newspapers; records exist for some 230 years. While the importance of newspapers for historical research is widely understood, in Rhode Island newspapers are often the only source of information available on a given subject. In all cases, they represent and provide valuable supplemental material. From the establishment of the Newport Mercury in 1758, newspapers have constituted the longest single continuous thread of the state's history.

The first paper printed in the state was produced in Newport when James Franklin, an exiled resident of Massachusetts Bay, set up a press and printed the Rhode Island Gazette late in 1732. Its life was brief, the last issue going out seven months later. Not until 1758, when James Franklin, Jr. continued the business begun by his father, did the town have a weekly publication, under the new banner of the Newport Mercury. This newspaper lasted 170 years -- except during the British occupation -- eventually holding claim to being America's oldest newspaper. The state's first foreign-language paper was established in November, 1780; the weekly Gazette Francaise filled the informa-

tional needs of Count Rochambeau's forces until 1781. The Providence Gazette and Country Journal was begun by William Goddard in 1762, continuing with few interruptions until 1825. By the end of the Revolution, Rhode Island still had only two newspapers: the Mercury and the Gazette.

Rhode Island's increasing diversity in the cultural, political, social and economic climate stimulated the introduction of a host of new weekly newspapers. More than a dozen important newspapers, such as the United States Chronicle, the American Journal, the Providence Phenix and the Republican Herald followed the Gazette into publication before Providence became a city in 1822. But, by early in the nineteenth century, Providence was, like it is today, a one-newspaper town. Still in operation, the Providence Journal claims to be "the oldest major daily newspaper of general circulation in continuous publication in the United States." It has survived challenges by a myriad of competitors between its birth as a daily in 1829 and the demise of its most recent competition, the News Tribune.

Despite efforts of city newspapers to attract readership in the suburbs by producing local editions, many local weeklies have survived the test of time and city competition. The Bristol Phoenix, begun in 1838, still enjoys wide readership within its community. Other long-lived weeklies include the Narragansett Times (1855), Rhode Island Pendulum in East Greenwich (1857), the Standard-Times in North Kingstown (1890), and the Cranston Herald (1936). Special interest papers -- which first saw the light of day with the pages printed for the French troops in Newport during the Revolution -- continue to serve the informational needs of this state's multi-ethnic population. By 1930, Rhode Island claimed two Hebrew papers (Jewish Herald and Jewish Review), a Scandinavian weekly (Svea), Voy da Colonia (Portuguese), L'Eco (Italian) and L'Union (French), to mention just a few. The latter two continue today and are joined by Nacional Comunidade (Portuguese, begun in 1981) and Nuevos Horizontes (Hispanic). A Catholic weekly, The Providence Visitor, has been published since 1875. Other papers serve a wide variety of religious, educational and age groups. The capital city itself has experienced a revival over the last several years in the weekly and monthly presses, most notably the Providence/Newport Eagle, The Newspaper, and East Side Monthly.



RILA MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't sent in your RILA membership renewal, why not take a moment right now to do it!! The renewal form appeared in the June issue of the RILA Bulletin. If you need a form, contact Paul Drake at the Warwick Public Library -- 739-1919. Remember -- elections are coming up soon and you won't receive a ballot if you haven't paid your 1983/1984 dues.



LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

Rhode Island Library Association



83 - S 0546 Sub. B, "An Act Relating to Library Property," one of three RILA-sponsored bills approved by the R.I. General Assembly on May 13, 1983

INTERPRETING THE NEW LIBRARY PROPERTY LAW

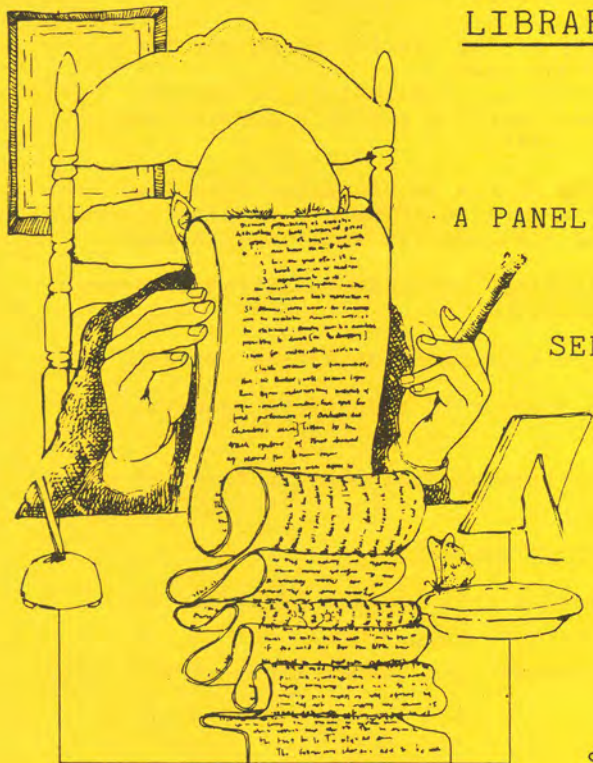
A PANEL DISCUSSION/WORKSHOP

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, 1983

9-11:45 A.M.

Cranston Public
Library
140 Sockanosset
Cross Road

Sponsored by the
RILA Government
Relations Committee



AN ACT RELATING TO LIBRARY PROPERTY

The bill that was approved by the General Assembly replaces statutes that had not been updated in Rhode Island since 1956. The originally-submitted version was changed extensively in three Subcommittees and from the House floor, resulting in the "Act Relating to Library Property" reprinted on the back of this flyer. Before we may use it effectively, librarians need to understand its application. The following questions have been posed to our panelists. We hope that those who attend this meeting will ask any additional questions they may have.

QUESTIONS

To what authority does the librarian report the offender?

What court has jurisdiction over offenders?

What is the responsibility of the library to inform its patrons before invoking this law?

- must the library's rules and regulations be posted?
- may a library employee search a patron's possessions in case of suspected theft?

What is the responsibility of the patron under this law?

- does registering for a card constitute a binding contract?
- if so, does breach of the contract violate this law?

What protection from liability for false detention or arrest is afforded to library staff?

How does this law apply to electronic detection systems?

Is there a difference in how public or private institutions may implement this law?

What does the October 1 effective date mean in terms of overdue materials?

How does the law apply to juveniles?

What alternatives to invoking this law are available to libraries?

How is this law an improvement over former laws—does it need additional amendments?

PANELISTS

Senator Robert J. McKenna,
Sponsor of the Library Property Bill

Senator David R. Carlin, Jr.
Sponsor of the Library Property Bill

Representative Jeffrey J. Teitz,
Chair, House Judiciary Committee

Representative Mary F. McMahon,
Member, House Judiciary Committee

Leonard F. Clingham, Jr.,
Special Assistant Attorney General

Arthur P. Young, Dean,
URI Library

Nancy F. Chudacoff, Attorney,
Edwards & Angell

Anne T. Parent, Moderator,
Co-chair, RILA Government
Relations Committee

AGENDA

9:00	to	9:15	Coffee
9:15	to	10:45	Panel Discussion
10:45	to	11:15	Questions
11:15	to	11:45	Plan For Action

Please note: No plans have been made for a statewide fine-free period before this legislation becomes effective. Individual libraries may wish to consider establishing an amnesty time prior to October 1 to allow the public the opportunity to return overdue materials before being charged under this law.

This Panel Discussion/Workshop will be repeated at the RILA Annual Conference as one in a choice of workshops Tuesday morning, November 15, 1983.

**** RSVP by TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 to Anne Parent ****
Cranston Public Library - 943-9080

AN ACT RELATING TO LIBRARY PROPERTY

Approved by the Rhode Island General Assembly May 13, 1983

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 11-41-14 of the general laws in chapter 11-41 entitled "Theft, Embezzlement, False Pretenses and Misappropriation" is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 2. Chapter 11-41 of the general laws entitled "Theft, Embezzlement, False Pretenses and Misappropriation" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

11-41-14. Failure to return book or other library property. -- (a) Any person who shall take or borrow any book or other library property from any of the libraries or collections as defined in section 11-44-15(b), and who, upon neglect to return the same within the time required and specified in the by-laws, rules, or regulations of the library owning the property, after receiving notice in writing by the librarian or other proper custodian of the property that the same is overdue, shall upon further neglect to return the same within sixty (60) days from the date of such notice, be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), the same to be for the use of the library.

In addition, if such book should be lost, destroyed or not returned, such person shall within sixty (60) days after being so notified, pay to the custodian the replacement value of such book, including all reasonable processing costs, as determined by the governing board having jurisdiction.

(b) All library users shall be notified of the aforementioned penalties at the time they obtain or renew their library privileges. The final notice provided for in subsection (a) shall also contain notice of the said penalties.

11-41-14.1. Concealment of book or other property while on premises of library-- Removal of book or other property from library. -- (a) Whoever, without authority, with the intention of converting to his own or another's use, willfully conceals a book or other library property, while still on the premises of such library, or willfully or without authority removes any book or other library property from any of the libraries or collections set forth in section 11-44-15 shall be deemed guilty of larceny thereof, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as provided by section 11-41-5 and shall be ordered to make restitution to the library in the full retail value of the books or library property.

(b) Any person reasonably believed to have committed or to be committing the crime set forth in subsection (a) shall be subject to detention by a police officer in accordance with section 12-7-1.

SECTION 3. Section 11-44-15 of the general laws in chapter 11-44 entitled "Trespass and Vandalism" is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 4. Chapter 11-44 entitled "Trespass and Vandalism" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

11-44-15. Injuring or destroying books and other property of libraries. -- (a) Any person who willfully, maliciously or wantonly writes upon, injures, defaces, tears, cuts, mutilates or destroys any book or other library property belonging to or in the custody of any public county or regional library, the state library, other repository of public records, museums or any library or collection belonging to or in the custody of any educational, eleemosynary, benevolent, hereditary, historical library or patriotic institution, organization or society, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be ordered to make restitution to the library in the full retail value of the books or library property, and may be fined not more than one hundred dollars.

(b) The terms "book or other library property" as used in this chapter shall include any book, plate, picture, photograph, engraving, painting, drawing, map, newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, broadside, manuscript, document, letter, public record, equipment, microform, sound recording, audiovisual materials in any format, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data processing records, artifacts, or other documentary, written, or printed material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, belonging to, on loan to, or otherwise in the custody of any library, museum, repository of public or other records institution.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect on October 1, 1983.



NEWS

from the

RILA EXECUTIVE BOARD

--At the May 31, 1983 meeting of the Executive Board, it was announced that RILA is now officially incorporated. In other business, the Board:

Approved a motion to move RILA's Telephone Credit Savings Account in its entirety to a Hospital Trust Money Market Account at 8% interest.

Approved a motion charging John Fox Cory with determining the members of the Nominating Committee by the end of June and authorized the Committee to spend up to \$150 for election expenses.

Approved a motion that RILA produce a publication on a monthly basis.

Approved a motion that RILA adopt a policy statement similar to ALA's policy statement, which will insure the elimination of sex stereotyping terminology of any kind in all RILA publications and official documents.

--At the June 28 Board Meeting, the following motions were voted:

Approved the report and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Financial Planning.

Agreed to an amendment to the Ad Hoc Committee's report that a zero-based budget program is the recommended form the budget should take to provide greater accountability of the relationship among RILA goals, income and expenses.

Approved the draft 1983-84 budget.

--At the July 26 meeting, the Executive Board:

Approved a motion to purchase an ALA Chapter Handbook.

Approved a motion urging the Rhode Island General Assembly to have evening meetings and to post the dates and topics of specific meetings.

Set a tentative date of September 8 for a workshop on the new theft and vandalism legislation, to be held at the Cranston Public Library.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

--In addition to being appointed Managing Editor of the RILA Bulletin, Chris LaFauci has recently been appointed the Director of the Health Sciences Information Center and Research Administration at Women and Infants Hospital. She was formerly Librarian at the R.I. Dept. of Health.

--Patricia L. Thibodeau, the former Director of the Health Sciences Information Center and Research Administration at Women and Infants Hospital, is now the Director of the Health Sciences Library and Learning Resources Center at the Mountain Area Health Education Center in Asheville, NC.

--Betsy Labedz, Librarian at Hinckley and Allen Law Firm, and her husband Chet became the proud parents of their first child on June 18. Mary Ruth Labedz weighed in at 6 lbs. 4 oz.

--Elliott Andrews, State Librarian, has retired from his position this summer.

--Constance H. Andrews, Head of Providence Public Library's Periodicals/Microfilm Department, was recently elected President of the Pembroke Club of Providence for 1983-84.

--Wedding bells will be ringing in September for Bill Bergeron, Technical Services Librarian at Cranston Public Library, and Fran Farrell, Coordinator at Providence Public Library and RILA Vice-President/President Elect.

--Virginia I. Benson has been appointed Librarian of the Tyler Free Library, replacing Connie Roe who resigned July 1. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from Thiel College in Pennsylvania and taught junior high and high school in the Washington, D.C. area for three years. She also worked in the University of Maryland library. For the past few years she has been an active member of the Tyler Free Library Association and a volunteer at the library.

--Marcia Sessions is working at the Warwick Public Library as a reference librarian until December when Carol Drought returns from maternity leave. Marcia is a URI/GLS graduate and has worked at the Barrington Library.



Familiar Faces
in new places



--Michael Knieval has been appointed Director of the Pawtucket Public Library. He comes to Pawtucket from the Cloquet Public Library in Minnesota and was also previously Director of the Red Wing Public Library in Minnesota. He is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, and received his M.A. in Library Science at the University of Iowa. He has been President of the Minnesota Library Media Circuit, Chair of the Cable TV Council, President of the Regional Council of Library Directors, and Vice President of the regional multi-type library cooperative. He has raised considerable money through grants for automation projects and video disc projects.

--Mary Waldman has left her position as librarian at the Rocky Hill School after four years in order to return to public library work. Her replacement at the school will be Cassandra Lovejoy of Mexico, Maine.

--Jessie Jorgensen has retired from the Hope Library after 27 years. Sandra Hopkins has been appointed adult services library technician to replace her.

--Carol Drought and husband John welcomed their second daughter, Georgia, on May 23. Georgia weighed in at 7 lbs. 5 oz. Carol is Head of Adult Services at the Warwick Public Library.

--JoAnn Aspry, Medical Librarian at Kent County Memorial Hospital, and her husband Bob became parents for the first time on Wednesday, May 25. Kyle Aspry weighed 8 lbs. 8 oz. when he entered the world.

--Marion N. Sabella is replacing JoAnn Aspry at the Kent County Memorial Hospital Library until September. She has a B.A. in English from the University of New Hampshire and will complete her M.L.S. at URI this December.

--Three Rhode Island library stars were featured in the May 1983 issue of American Libraries. The photograph, taken at the Public Library Association Conference in Baltimore in March, featured Island System Coordinator and RILA President Howard Boksenbaum, DSLS Supervisor of Children's Services Melody Brown, and Western System Coordinator Paul Drake.

--Rebecca Tildesley has retired as Director of the Roger Williams College Library. She plans to spend her retirement traveling with her husband Deac, gardening, cooking, and becoming a book collector.

--Remour DeLissovoy has retired from her position as Head of Slides and Photographs at Rhode Island School of Design.

--Mark Braunstein is now Head of Slides and Photographs at RISD. He was formerly Assistant Editor of the Art Index and Slide Librarian for Rosenthal Art Slides, Chicago. He received his MLS from Pratt Institute and his undergraduate degree in Art and Art History from SUNY, Binghamton.

--Marlene L. Lopes has been appointed Head Reference Librarian at Rhode Island College. She was formerly the Coordinator of Learning Resources at the Lynn Center of North Shore Community College. She also previously worked at the University of Massachusetts and Providence Public Library. She replaces Louise Sherby who is now a reference librarian at Columbia University.

--Thelma Kavanagh has retired as Cataloger at the URI College of Continuing Education after thirteen years in that position.

--Edgar C. Bailey, Assistant Director of the Phillips Memorial Library at Providence College, has been elected chairperson of the CRIARL Government Documents Committee.

--Michael Vocino, who was recently appointed to the position of Government Publications Librarian/Reference Bibliographer at the URI Library, has accepted the challenge of being the Literary Editor of the RILA Bulletin. He was a cataloger at URI for two years and a reference librarian at Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy, MA for nearly eleven years. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Boston University, and his MLS and an MA in Political Science from URI.

--ALA Councilor Jody Bush is a candidate for the ALA Council's Planning and Budget Assembly.

--Frank Notarianni, Reference Librarian at Rhode Island College, has been appointed Government Publications Librarian at Rhode Island College replacing Judith Stokes.

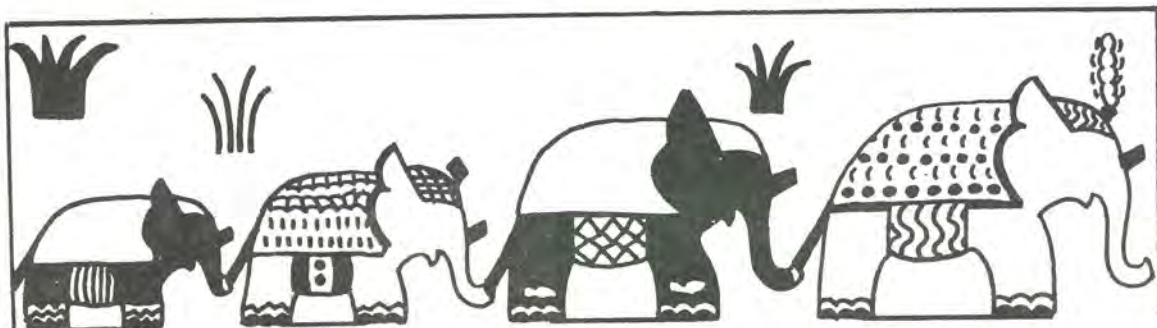
--Germaine McCarthy received one of three national grants to attend the ALA Conference in Los Angeles from ALA's Junior Members Round Table. The grant is provided annually by 3M to encourage professional development and participation in national ALA and JMRT activities by new members.

--Marianne Millette, Providence Public Library's children's librarian at Washington Park Branch, conducted two workshops at the Catskill Reading Conference in Oneonta, NY August 1-5. Her presentations were based on the workshops that she developed for the branch project funded by the Mayor's Office of Community Development. She demonstrated the use of whole language theories to encourage children to read, using booklists and samples of the children's work.

--Janet D. Bralove has been appointed Volunteer Coordinator at Providence Public Library. She was formerly the Director of Volunteer Services at the Children's Museum of Rhode Island, is a member of the Association of Volunteer Administrators, and is a member of the Board of Directors of Volunteers in Action. She holds a Master of Science in Education from Syracuse University.

--Orlando Pacheco has been appointed permanent part-time word processor in the Providence Public Library's Development Office. He earned his B.S. at URI and was President of the University's Latin American Student Association. He supervised the tutorial program and was an accounting tutor in the Office of Student Life. He has also taught English and elementary math for Project Persona.

--Have you been waiting to see your name in the RILA Bulletin? Don't wait for someone else to report your news or for us to see it in another news source. Drop a note to the Bulletin News Editor and share your job changes and other professional and personal news with your colleagues. Don't be shy! We need your help!



RILA SRRT HOTLINE

RHODE ISLAND

LIBRARY: REFERENCE/BIBLIOGRAPHER - LIFE SCIENCES: Under the general direction of the Head, Reference Unit, provides reference, bibliographic and instructional service and develops collections in assigned subject areas, participates in related faculty/professional activities. Qualifications: ALA accredited degree; working knowledge of a foreign language; ability to communicate effectively and work with public; academic/research reference. Online data base searching and additional Master's in a life science preferred. Rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor dependent on qualifications. Available January, 1984. Send resume and names of three references by September 30, 1983 to: Professor Margaret J. Keefe, University Library, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881.

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



ALA 1983 CONFERENCE REPORT

-- Jody Bush

Fewer people attended the Los Angeles Conference than have attended the past several Annual Conferences. Although well-known for its sprawl, Los Angeles provided a reasonably confined conference area, making getting to and from possible and relatively comfortable. My favorite line from a native: "I didn't know there was a downtown Los Angeles."

Humor was a necessary ingredient for getting us through twenty-one hours of Council, Council Caucus, Membership, and Chapter Relations Meetings.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES (to name a few)

- Refused to support the Year of the Bible resolution initiated by President Reagan and endorsed by Congress.
- Adopted the resolution, previously endorsed by the RILA Executive Board, permitting all state library association members the opportunity to vote for their state Chapter Councilor, rather than just ALA members.
- Rejected the Presidential (U.S.) directive on "Safeguarding National Security Information" which further curtails access to government publications and information.
- Voted to join the National Commission on Excellence in Education in its efforts to disseminate its report Education: A Nation at Risk, and to work toward educational reform.

REPORTS

- OPM: President Nemeyer reported on the status of the Office of Planning and Management's downgrading of federal librarians' job classifications. The new standards have not yet been delivered. ALA remains actively involved. She added that ALA could act on behalf of federal librarians in regard to these revisions, but at least one federal librarian would have to be named in the action.
- SCOLE: The Standing Committee on Library Education presented a resolution asking for Council action that would create a policy recognizing the difference between the training of librarians and those in other information-handling professions, and that would preserve quality library education. The resolution was adopted.

-BUDGET: ALA has discovered \$500,000 "surplus" in its budget. R. Wedgeworth attributed this to (earlier) conservative projections and an upswing in the economy. Feathers were ruffled, particularly after ALA had requested permission from Council to dip into its endowment for \$95,000 at Mid-Winter. Rumors flew that the Executive Director, the Executive Board and COPEs (Committee on Planning and Evaluation) entangled themselves in angry debate and misunderstandings, finally making tentative peace.

PROGRAM SAMPLER

-"Up Your Wages" - A Pay Equity program presented by librarians from Los Angeles and Chicago. A recent ALA study showed a 30% salary discrepancy between the library and other city departments by using job evaluations to measure education, skills, and experience. Chicago library workers, using EEO-4 reports (by sex and nationality), went to the media, gaining attention and support for reducing salary discrepancies. The Washington Federation of State Employees, after EEOC failed to act on its "Comparable Worth" complaint, has filed a multi-million dollar law suit in U.S. Federal District Court seeking full implementation of comparable worth increases, plus back pay. The Fairfax County Library in Virginia is suing the County Personnel Department on this issue, as well -- more about the latter at the RILA Annual Conference.

-"Guns or Butter" - A riveting speaker, Sheila Tobias, co-author of What Kinds of Guns are They Buying with Your Butter, urged librarians to be aware of and develop awareness of the cost of military hardware (weapons) compared to the costs of social and educational programs. Learn to demand trade-offs, to lobby, to mount "Know Your Weapons" exhibits in libraries. Know that \$18.5 million buys one F-16 Fighter. What could it buy for libraries, schools, the elderly, etc.?

-"A New Tool" - The Chapter Relations Committee and the ALA Chapter Relations Officer have put together an excellent Chapter Handbook that has a multitude of things:

- .A history of the ALA chapter relationship
- .ALA policies and procedures affecting chapters, including chapter councilor election procedures and practices.
- .Directories containing information from every state library association -- Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Executive Directors/Secretaries, Councilors, Conference Dates, Journals/Newsletters and their editors.
- .A calendar of library association conferences 1983-90.

.Compilations of membership statistics, dues and conference registration and exhibit fees from the state and regional library associations.

.Local Association Leadership, Finance Lobbying, Government Relations, Incorporation.

.A bibliography of materials of interest to State Associations -- conference planning, fund raising, association management, parliamentary procedure, lobbying, marketing ...

I was sent home with Rhode Island's one complimentary copy. The Executive Board has agreed to purchase a second one. Freely call if any of you would like to see and/or use it.

Finally, would other ALA attendees like to report on programs they found useful under this "banner" in subsequent issues of the BULLETIN?

Jody Bush,
RILA Chapter Councilor
ALA



CALENDAR

August 30, 1983

RILA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Place: Dept. of State Library Services
95 Davis Street, Providence
Time: 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

September 8, 1983

INTERPRETING THE NEW LIBRARY PROPERTY LAW: A Panel Discussion/Workshop

Place: Cranston Public Library
140 Sockanosset Cross Road, Cranston
Time: 9:00 - 12:00 noon
Contact: Ann Parent, 943-9080

September 16, 1983

INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIANS WORKSHOP

Place: Dept. of State Library Services
95 Davis Street, Providence
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Contact: Sheila Carlson, 277-2726



RILA

Committee News

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Committee plans to continue the workshops it has co-sponsored with Providence Public Library. Topics for future workshops include conflict resolution, disciplinary action, planning, sexist issues, and leadership vs. management.

The Committee is also looking for new members, particularly from public libraries.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Due to hospitalization, Jane Lemos is not able to continue as the Committee Chairperson and has been succeeded by Tanya Trinkaus.

The Committee will be sponsoring an all day "Grass Roots Graphics" workshop with Don Simon of Sunrise Corporation in late September at the Cranston Public Library. The cost will be \$15 and will include lunch. Watch for flyers.

TRUSTEE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Thirty-eight trustees attended a reception at Aldrich House where they filled out questionnaires asking them what RILA should do for them, what kind of programs they would like, and if they are members of RILA. Results are being compiled with a possible Conference program in mind.

The Committee is also producing a directory of trustees in Rhode Island.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The 1983 Conference program has been planned and promises to offer a full schedule of programs and exhibits of interest to all. The program line-up will include sessions on:

- .The pay equity issue
- .The new electronic mail system
- .Implementing the new library theft and vandalism bill
- .Providing library service to the elderly
- .Searching data bases
- .Using toys and realia in the library
- .Repairing books

and more. Set aside November 14th and 15th to join us at the Sheraton Islander for these and all the other programs planned.

BULLETIN BOARD

STORYTELLING GRANT: DLSL has been awarded a \$1200 project support grant for "Storytellers Caravan." This project will make possible fifty storytelling programs in public libraries across the state in conjunction with the statewide Summer Reading Program, "Readers are Winners." Children's book author and illustrator, Randy Harelson, has donated the artwork for the posters, bookmarks, certificates and clip art.

RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION GRANTS: The Rhode Island Foundation has recently made several grants benefiting libraries:

--The Pell Marine Science Library at URI has received an unsolicited grant of \$2000 in support of the program of instruction in the marine sciences offered by the University's Graduate School of Oceanography.

--St. Andrew's School in Barrington received \$30,000 for renovations to accommodate a library.

--Providence Public Library received \$13,915 to finance the second year of the volunteer program.

URI ALUMNI DONATION: The Alumni Association at URI has announced a major donation to the University Library. Twenty thousand dollars will be available immediately for the purchase of currently needed materials. A second \$20,000, also to be used for current materials, will be in the form of a challenge grant with faculty and staff invited to match the grant. If the challenge is met, a total of \$60,000 will be available to the library.

MEDIEVAL COLLECTION: Brown University Library has acquired a select group of works from the collection gathered by eminent medieval historian, Francois L. Ganshof. With the addition of these materials, Brown's general medieval history collection now rivals those of Harvard and Yale. It has the best resources in the country for scholars working in the area of medieval history of the Low Countries. Because of their rarity or importance, one-third of the more than 1300 titles received will become part of the Special Collections located in the John Hay Library. The rest will be integrated into the holdings of the Rockefeller Library which houses the general social sciences and humanities collections.

DEWEY 19 - MAKING IT WORK FOR YOU: A one day workshop to be presented at the Boston Public Library on Friday, September 23, 1983, will feature Dr. John Comaromi, Chief, Decimal Classification Division, Library of Congress. Sponsored by the Technical Service Section of the Massachusetts Library Association and Library of Congress. Dr. Comaromi will speak on DDC 19: Where we have been and where we are going; implementation of DDC 19: What to do and how to do it; classifying with DDC 19. This workshop has been given in 27 states and provinces in the U.S. and Canada and this is the first time it will be given in New England. For further information, contact Stella Shen at 617-643-0026, Robbins Library, Arlington, MA 02174.

TELEPOEM: A 24-hour recorded literary entertainment, has come to Rhode Island. Funded in part by a grant from B. Dalton Bookseller, TELEPOEM features published New England authors reading from their own works. Callers simply dial 751-POEM to hear a poem and the poems are changed about every two weeks. Upcoming poets will include Marge Piercy, May Sarton, and John Updike. Any New England author who has at least one published book or whose work has appeared in 10 or more magazines may submit to TELEPOEM. Cassette tapes with a selection of poems recorded in the author's own voice should be sent with SASE to: TELEPOEM, R.I. State Council on the Arts (RISCA), 312 Wickenden St., Providence, R.I. 02903. TELEPOEM is sponsored by the Providence Public Library, in conjunction with RISCA and the "Live Literature" program of the New England Foundation for the Arts.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS: The Rhode Island General Hospital Library is joining the Institute of Mental Health Library in a selective government document deposit agreement with Warwick Public Library. The program was initiated two years ago by Paul Drake, Coordinator of the Western Interrelated Library System. In this program, the institutional libraries select materials from the entire federal government documents list through Warwick Public Library and keep them on permanent loan. Materials chosen are relevant to the particular institutional library's subject area and primarily include bibliographies, data base searches, and research. Deirdre Donohue, librarian at the Institute of Mental Health has found the program useful and has had no difficulty with the federal stipulation that the documents be made available to the general public. It is also a further step in strengthening the cooperative relationship between the public libraries in the Western Region and the institutional libraries in the Cranston Medical Center area.

VIDEO CASSETTES: The second year of the video circuit of the Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative is underway. There has been an increase of eight boxes and an increase of two titles per box for a total of 15 titles in each. The films added to the "old" boxes are a children's film and a "how to" film ranging from motorcycle maintenance to home haircuts and are a response to requests for such items.

FILMS FOR AND ABOUT THE DEAF: RIFLC held two programs in May and June screening four films for and about deaf people which were purchased with funds from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. The first program, held at Rhode Island School for the Deaf, featured Holly Near, internationally known singer and composer, who spoke about her role in See What I Say, a film about the importance of American Sign Language. The second program was held at DSLS where Betty Spellman, Coordinator of Adult Education at the Rhode Island School for the Deaf spoke about the ways that public libraries could serve their deaf borrowers. The films See What I Say, Sign of Victory, Hi, I'm Dan, and Let My Hands Sing were viewed and discussed.

TRUSTEES: The RILA Trustees Committee will be sponsoring a pre-conference program and reception for trustees from 3-5:30 p.m. on Sunday November 13 at the Newport Officers Club. For more information contact Connie Lachowicz at 789-1555.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD: Providence Public Library has received a John Cotton Dana Special Award for its project "A Lively Experiment." It is the only library in New England to receive one of the prestigious awards. Director Analee Bundy said, "The library was cited for a lively example of how humanities grants and concepts can be used to enhance public library programming as well as the image of public libraries through effective use of handsome graphics and displays." For the past two years the program has created and coordinated a series of events about Rhode Island's ethnic diversity and paradoxical history. Exhibits and programs have travelled to many participating libraries throughout the state. The project was supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award Contest is sponsored by the Library Administration and Management Association of the American Library Association with the support of the H.W. Wilson Co.

RI/JMRT ELECTION: At its June 16 Annual Meeting at the Newport Public Library, the Rhode Island Chapter of the Junior Members Round Table elected the following new officers:

President - Gerri McCarthy
Vice President/President-Elect - Barbara Cohen
Treasurer - Gretchen Yealy
Secretary - Janet Draper
Members-at-large - Frank Iacono and Tom Brennan
GLS Liaison - Scott Carlisle
Membership and Newsletter - Maggie Horn

PROJECT PERSONA: Project Persona, a social service agency in Providence dedicated to providing for the basic educational needs of non- and limited English speaking youth and adults, has organized a library and hired Sara Smith as librarian. Students are from Hispanic, Southeast Asian and other cultural and language backgrounds. The library is in need of materials, especially in the areas of geography, history and biography for children; travel, "how-to" books and foreign language materials for adults. Anyone with possible donations is asked to contact Sara at 831-1460.

PPL FUND DRIVE: Providence Public Library's 1983 fund drive ended with a new record despite a shortfall in unrestricted gifts. The library exceeded the record set in 1982 and more than doubled the amount by raising \$435,000 compared to \$211,000 last year. However, the library failed to meet the \$100,000 goal for unrestricted funds. More than \$350,000 of the gifts are earmarked for specific projects or purchases. Unrestricted gifts comprise almost \$82,000, \$12,000 more than last year but \$18,000 short of the 1983 goal. Unrestricted funds are those that can be used to pay operating expenses including book purchases. Major increases in donations this year, almost 120%, came from foundations which contributed more than \$160,000 last year and almost \$350,000 this year.

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOKSALE: The R.I. Historical Society will hold its annual booksale on Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Aldrich House, 110 Benevolent Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

DSLS BUDGET: The Department of State Library Service's budget, as passed by the R.I. General Assembly, provides for a 4.5% increase over last year's appropriation. The budget provides for 32 staff positions, a 3.5% increase for grants, and a small increase in operating funds. A modest amount has also been appropriated for the purchase of books for the first time in several years. Changes in the budget by the General Assembly, however, resulted in the elimination of incentive grant funds and the Department's annual grant to the Northeast Document Conservation Center.

LSCA PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION FUNDS: The Emergency Jobs Bill passed by Congress in March contained \$50,000,000 for Title II of the Library Services and Construction Act - Public Library Construction. Rhode Island will be receiving \$322,072.

ONLINE SEARCHING PROJECT: DSLS recently signed an agreement with Providence Public Library in which the Department will provide PPL with a grant for online data base searching start-up costs. PPL will offer two levels of online service: Search Helper, which will provide quick access to popular information and DIALOG, which will be available for more in-depth reference questions. In conjunction with the project, DSLS plans to offer continuing education opportunities in the area of online searching. The Department has purchased a portable data terminal and will soon be using OCLC's Affiliated Online Service, which offers access at discounted rates to the information services of Bibliographic Retrieval Service (BRS) and DIALOG Information Services. This arrangement will provide for demonstration and training programs at DSLS and similar programs at any library which would like to borrow the terminal.

RHODE ISLAND ATLAS: The Rhode Island Publications Society (publication arm of the Rhode Island Historical Society) has just published The Rhode Island Atlas, a 200+ page volume of charts and extensive narratives by Marion I. Wright and Robert J. Sullivan. The sections are geography and climate, places and names, demography, economy and transportation and includes historical as well as current information. The book costs \$12.95 plus \$1.00 postage and handling and can be obtained from The Rhode Island Publications Society, 150 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903.

TYLER ROAD RACE: The Third Annual Moosup Valley Road Race, sponsored by the Tyler Free Library was held on May 14. More than 120 runners participated including Frank Iacono of DSLS, John Fox Cory of Cranston Public Library and Joseph Light, an elementary school librarian in the South Kingston School System who finished third overall. Joe McGovern, Head of AV Services at DSLS, videotaped the race for DSLS and possible use by the RILA Publicity Committee. More than \$600 was raised for the library.

READING RAINBOWS: When PBS announced "Reading Rainbows," a program designed "to encourage children to read quality books on their own through the summer months," RILA was able to respond quickly to produce Public Service Announcements. In cooperation with Ch. 36, PSA's featuring 15 libraries were produced, and were aired during July and August. The program, a huge success, will be re-broadcast in January, 1984. The Bulletin will carry a detailed schedule in the December issue.

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